

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Drawings:

Applicant notes that the Examiner has not yet approved the drawings filed with the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests approval of the drawings filed on March 6, 2002.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Further, the Examiner has not initialed and returned Forms PTO/SB/08 A & B filed with the present application. Therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner consider and initial Forms PTO/SB/08 A & B filed August 22, 2003 and November 12, 2003.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for indicating that although the Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 7, these claims would be allowable if written in independent form.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-7 are all of the claim pending in the present application and currently claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection - Claims 1, 3 and 4:

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,270,359 to Kondo et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that with regard to claim 4, because there is no express rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicant believes that the Examiner intended claim 4 to be rejected only under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Therefore, Applicant addresses this rejection further below. If Applicant's above presumption is incorrect, Applicant requests the Examiner specify the rejection of claim 4.

Turning now to the above rejection, Figure 5, of Kondo, discloses a terminal 6 which has an end portion 6c which is soldered into a substrate 7 and a central portion (above item 6b) which is retained in a block portion 40. Further, each of the terminals 6 have a projection portion 45, which is, at least partially, engaged in the block portion 40. Additionally, Figure 4 shows the terminal 22 having a bifurcated end portion.

However, Applicant submits that Kondo fails to disclose the retaining portion of the present invention, as set forth in either of claims 1 and 3. Specifically, Kondo fails to disclose having a retaining portion completely retained in a positioning hole of a terminal plate, which is provided in an intermediate portion of the terminal, and where the entirety of the retaining portion is contained within the positioning hole, including an upper surface and a lower surface of the retaining portion. See claim 1, and additionally claim 3.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicant submits that Kondo fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, Kondo fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the claims 1, 3 and 4.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection - Claims 1 and 2:

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,396,702 to Boucheron et al. With regard to this rejection, we have the following comments.

Boucheron discloses two terminal types 4 and 7, which are secured and soldered to a substrate 1, which have projection portions. However, like Kondo, Applicant submits that Boucheron fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in claim 1. Specifically, the bottom surface of each of the projections (on each of the terminals 4 and 7) abuts against the substrate 1, and are not encased in the additional portion 19. As can be seen in Figure 1, the bottom surfaces of the terminal projections rest on the upper surface of the substrate 1 and are not completely encased in the portion 19. Because of this, Boucheron fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicant submits that Boucheron fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, Boucheron fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly,

Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the claims 1 and 2.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection - Claim 6:

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,975,918 to Quillet et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

Figures 2 and 3, of Quillet, disclose a bent terminal 3. However, contrary to the Examiner's assertions there is no disclosure of the terminals having a wide-flat portion formed by being bent at an intermediate portion of the terminal. In fact, the terminals 3 are simply round terminals. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicant submits that Quillet fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Further, Applicant notes that Quillet relates to an insulation, and the terminal of Quillet has a circular shape because the terminal is not considered a heat release. However, on the contrary, the terminal of the claimed invention has the flat portion to be in contact with other portion for the heat release aspects of this portion. The flat portion causes high efficiency of the heat release.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicant submits that Quillet fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, Quillet fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of the claim 6.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number 10/091,183

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35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claim 4:

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo.

However, Applicant submits that with regard to this rejection, Kondo is not available as prior art under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Specifically, Applicant notes that both Kondo and the present application were owned by YAZAKI, or under an obligation to assign to YAZAKI, at the time the present invention was made. As such, Applicant notes that the Kondo reference may not be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above rejection.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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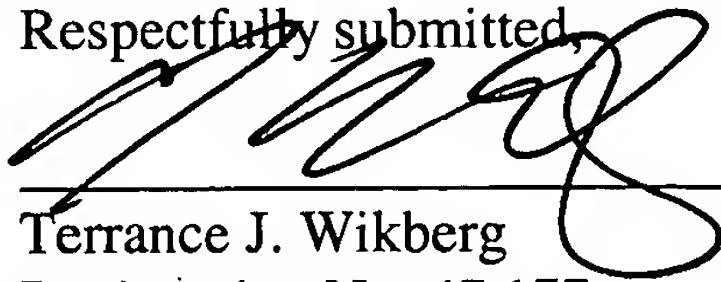
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Respectfully submitted,



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